involving acts of corruption and moral turpitude against some Judges of High Courts and some members of Judicial Service of the States have come to the notice of the Government.

Hon'ble Prime Minister, in his address to the conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers held on September 18, 2004 has *inter-alia* observed as follows:

"The framers of our Constitution wanted to protect and preserve the independence of our judiciary. This places a greater onus and responsibility on the members and practitioners of our judiciary to maintain the highest standards of probity and integrity. Accountability and transparency norms cannot, and should not, be imposed on the judiciary from outside. It is, I believe, up to the judiciary to do some soul-searching and ensure how this can best be done."

The Chief Justice of a High Court has the competence to receive and look into complaints against the conduct of a Judge of his Court. In some recent cases, the Chief Justice of India set up inquiry committees under in-house procedure to deal with cases of deviant behaviour of Judges. As regards the members of Judicial Service of a State, under article 235 of the constitution of India, the administrative control over the members of subordinate judiciary in the States vests with the concerned High Court and the State Government. Therefore, the disciplinary control in respect of judicial officers of subordinate judiciary lies with the concerned High Court and the State Government.

Judges in High Court of NER

1856. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the number of Judges in Guwahati High Court is very less against the sanctioned strength;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to fill up the vacant posts of Judges including the Single Bench High Courts situated at the State Capitals of North Eastern States; and

(c) whether Government are considering to fill up the posts of the Judges to the Single Bench of Guwahati High Court situated in each State capital of North East from amongst the qualified persons having knowledge about

dialect, local laws, customs, practices etc, of the tribals of the concerned States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Against the sanctioned strength of 19 Judges/Additional Judges, 16 Judges/Additional Judges are in position in the Guwahati High Court. 3 Judges on the strength of the Guwahati High Court are functioning in outside High Courts. After the Triennial review of Judge strength in 2003, 8 more posts of Additional Judges have been approved for the Gauhati High Court which are yet to be filled up. However, pursuant to the Superme Court Judgement of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Cief Justice of that High Court. The Government has been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, including the North Eastern States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the vacancies which are existing as well as those anticipated during the next six months.

Allotment of Judges to the Benches is decided by the Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court.

Registration of marriages

1857. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make registration of all marriages mandatory irrespective of religion to protect interests of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the subject matter "Marriage and divorce" falls under entry 5 of the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is considered appropriate to allow the State Government to bring in